

Outdoor adventures with the latino community in Minnesota 2022



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HUELLAS
LATINAS

Photo by Luisana Mendez, Huellas Latinas

MISSION

Inspire the creation of a vibrant, engaged and empowered outdoor community

GOALS

1. Motivate the community to try outdoor activities. Finding in them the benefits of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being.
2. Empower the community through outdoor skills development, so they feel able to explore the parks on their own
3. Elevate the sense of belonging of the community with the places we visit as well as the engagement to protect and conserve natural spaces.



Photo by Luisana Mendez, Huellas Latinas



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"I found out about the club by reading a Minnesota DNR newsletter titled 'Women in Conservation.' I thought it was a very good idea to reconnect with my Latin roots since every day I only speak Spanish to my daughter (at home we speak French with my husband) and I've been out of Mexico for almost 20 years. Even better if it's sharing an activity that I love and can do with my daughter! I was not disappointed, the group and the activities have enchanted me!" - Yari

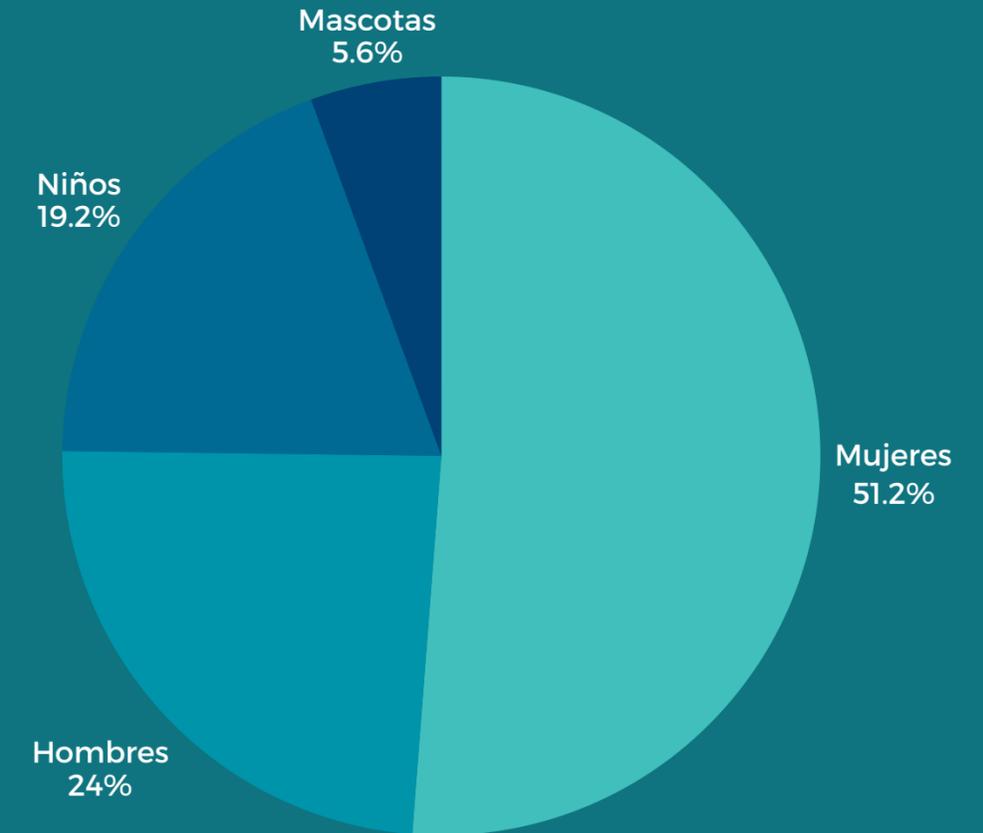
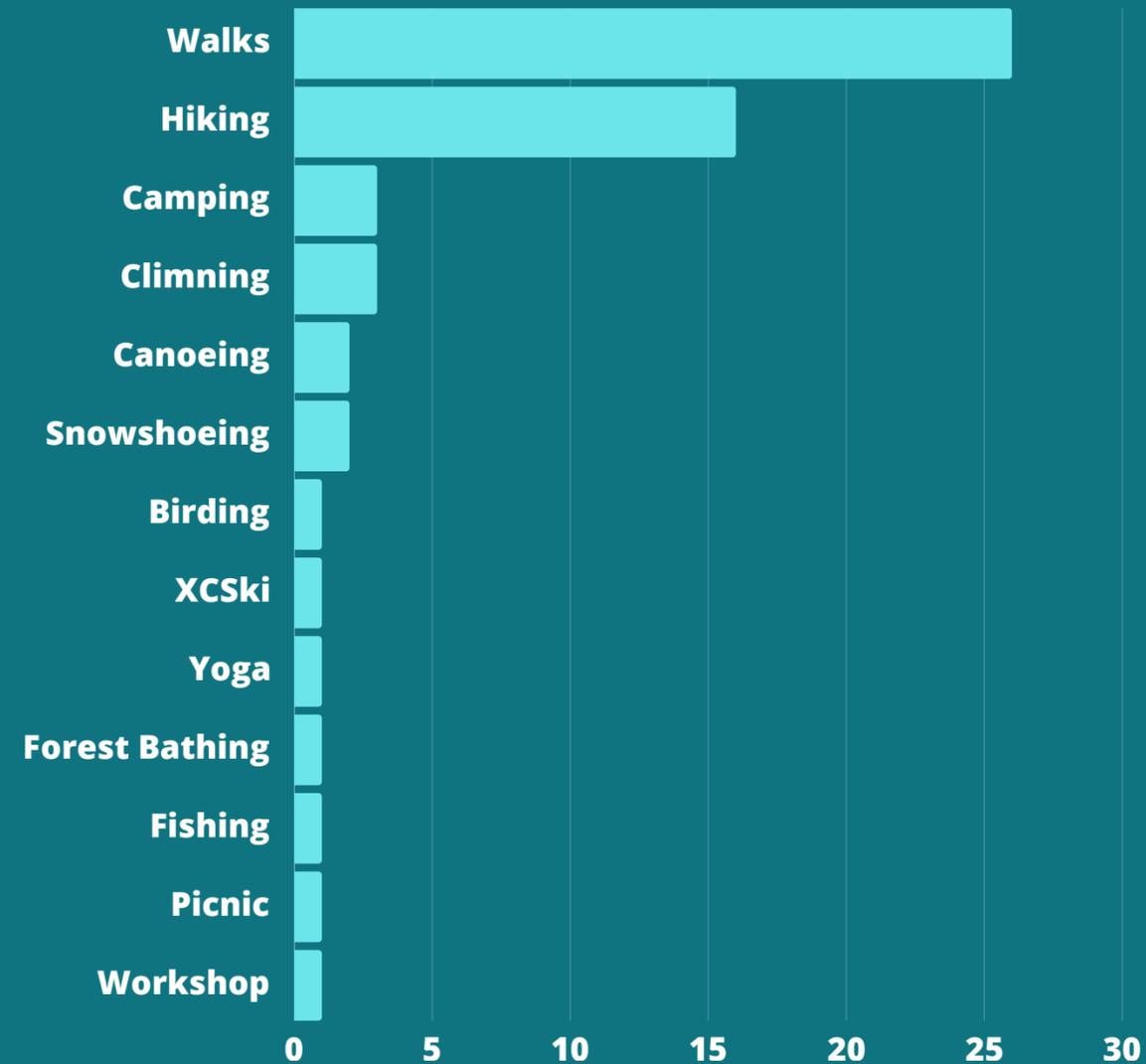
ABOUT US

Huellas Latinas is an organization created by Latinos for Latinos, dedicated to inspiring the creation of a vibrant, engaged and empowered outdoor community. Offering different meeting and exchange scenarios between different cultures and experiences. Strengthening the links and the sense of belonging with the place where they live. Founder Luisana Mendez created Huellas Latinas in 2021 to provide safe, culturally appropriate spaces for Latino families to enjoy outdoor recreation in Minnesota

For the second consecutive year, Huellas Latinas was leading outdoor activities in the different seasons of the year for the Latino community, including: Hiking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, bird watching, canoeing, camping, climbing and more. We increased our alliances with numerous organizations and we participated in the celebration of Latino Conservation week 2022 and Hispanic heritage month. In addition, we reinforce the sense of community. We implemented a digital platform for the Hiking Club and a virtual store. At the end of this year, Huellas Latinas has proven to be a solid, sustainable and necessary organization for the community. For this reason, it is preparing to enter a new phase in 2023 and will become a Non-Profit.



OUR IMPACT IN 2022





“I joined Huellas Latinas with the desire to go out more often. Although I have lived in Minnesota all my life, I don’t know much here. The walks with Huellas Latinas have been a great opportunity to see new places, places that I can later take my family so they too can see all that Minnesota has to offer.” - Oscar



NATURE WALKS WITH LATINO FAMILIES

In partnership with Dakota County Forever Wild Parks we lead an all-season hiking program in county parks. The program was primarily targeted at Latino families and their allies. Through the program, families were acquiring knowledge and skills related to hiking, in addition to the benefits of this activity for the overall health of people, and turning this activity into a lifestyle.



Photos by Luisana Mendez, Huellas Latinas

SNOWSHOEING & CROSS COUNTRY SKI

This year we offered different winter activities for Latino families. All the participants had the opportunity to learn about these sports, the teams, safety tips and acquire the basic knowledge to practice them in a safe and fun way. In partnership with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, we lead a Snowshoe activity, and in partnership with Wood Lake Nature Center, we lead a Cross Country Ski activity.



Photos by Luisana Méndez, Huellas Latinas



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FIESTA EN LA NIEVE 2022

Fiesta en la Nieve is an Activity coordinated by Danota County Forever Wild Parks in partnership with multiple Latino organizations. This year was our first time joining this event and coordinating the Snowshoeing activity. Fiesta en la Nieve was a massive event with the participation of more than 500 Latino families.



COFFEE AND BIRDS

With the arrival of spring also comes the season of bird migration. On this occasion we had the pleasure of partnering with the Audubon Minneapolis Chapter and Three Rivers District Parks to hold a workshop on coffee and birds. The participants had the opportunity to learn about coffee plantations, the impact that birds have on the plantations and also about the different types of coffee. In addition, they had the opportunity to roast their own coffee and go on a birding walk at Eastman Nature Center.

Photos by Luisana Mendez, Huellas Latinas



WALKING IN SPANISH AT SHEPARD FARM WITH DODGE NATURE CENTER

With the arrival of spring, we were present at the opening of Shepard Farm. A unique setting among the Dodge Nature Center properties, with 100-year-old forests, historic buildings and barns from the 1920s, and different areas that now serve as a destination for agricultural and environmental education in Washington County. On this occasion, Huellas Latinas had the great honor of leading a walk in Spanish that, surprisingly, had the participation of more than 50 people, including adults and children.



THE SPRING SEVEN



Photos by Luisana Mendez, Huellas Latinas

Spring also became the perfect season to launch our first challenge, "The Spring Seven". In partnership with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge we encourage our community to get out of their comfort zone and try something different and more challenging. So we did a 7-mile hike around Long Meadow Lake and the Minnesota River. The experience was unique and everyone completed the challenge and enjoyed a community lunch.

CLIMBING

In partnership with the American Alpine Club Twin Cities Chapter, we offer our community the opportunity to try climbing activities such as Rope Climbing and Bouldering.

Photos by Luisana Mendez, Huellas Latinas



LATINO CONSERVATION WEEK 2022

For the second consecutive year we were offering activities promoting Latino Conservation Week with our community. This year we run a camping program in coordination with State Parks and Trails. Yoga and Hike in partnership with Yoga para La Gente. Hike and learn in alliance with Dodge Nature Center, Canoe Ride in partnership with Dakota County Forever Wild Parks and of course, we also lead some Hikes.

Photos by Luisana Mendez, Huellas Latinas



REMAR EN CANOA

Summer is the favorite season for water activities. In partnership with the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge we offered a canoe paddling activity on Lake Como. Participants had the opportunity to learn proper canoe paddling techniques and enjoyed a fun afternoon paddling on the lake.



Photos by Luisana Mendez, Huellas Latinas

WALK WITH EASE

This year we also partnered with Juniper to offer the Walking with Ease program. This program was a great experience, as we had the opportunity to work with older adults and offer walking techniques for beginners and for people with chronic diseases or osteoporosis. The walks of the program were carried out in Como Park and the participants were able to visit the lake, the gardens, and even the zoo and the conservatory.



Photos by Luisana Mendez, Huellas Latinas



FOREST BATHING

Forest Bathing was also a new experience for Huellas Latinas members and was made possible through coordination with State Parks and Trails. An ancient technique to connect with nature and with ourselves from the depths. The activity was carried out with a group of women in Whitewater State Park

MES DE LA HERENCIA HISPANA

Hispanic Heritage Month was also a great opportunity to enjoy a fun and varied schedule of activities including hiking, fishing, camping, rope climbing and even celebrating with a picnic and games. Our partners Baztec, American Alpine Club Twin Cities Chapter and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge were our partners and allies for the success of the activities.

Photos by Luisana Mendez, Huellas Latinas



OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Theoretical-practical workshop designed by Latinos for Latinos where the participants had the opportunity to learn about the basic fundamentals of photography technique, the operation of the camera and the creation of photographic projects. The workshop was mainly focused on the photography of elements present in nature. Additionally in this edition, the photographic project was taken to the CLUES art room for public exhibition for two months.



Photos by Luisana Mendez, Huellas Latinas

HUELLAS LATINAS HIKING CLUB

Since its creation in September 2021, Huellas Latinas Hiking Club has been of interest to a large number of people, becoming made up of more than 100 people plus their families. This club has been offering regular Camping, Hikes every other week on Wednesday afternoons. In addition, we have been constant in carrying out the Hike in the Dark and the Spooky Hike for the second consecutive year. Additionally, we take the opportunity to participate in activities and events of other organizations. Among them: a mushrooms clinic, 5K Tacos and Margaritas, and kayaking.

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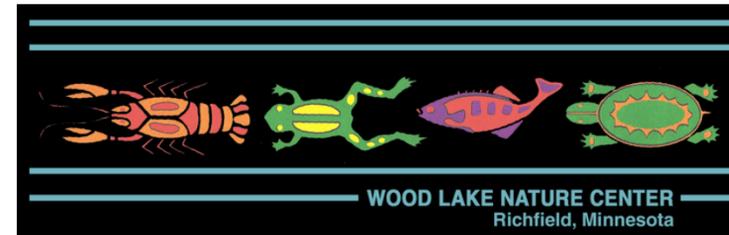


"Thanks to Huellas Latinas my family and I began to explore outdoor activities, we liked it and now we just want to keep exploring". - Luisa

OUR PARTNERS



NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE SYSTEM



OUR SPONSORS



TESTIMONY

My son has a special condition, he can only communicate through images, drawings, and photos. I decided to take this photography workshop to learn new ways to communicate with my son... - Photography Workshop participant.



ADVOCACY

1. Dakota County Forever Wild Parks - Public consultation - Update the long range plan for improvements to Miesville Ravine Park Reserve. - July 2022
2. Three Rivers Focus Group - Oct 2022
3. MNVWR Stakeholder Analysis Workshop - Nov 2022

1. Minnesota State Parks and Trails - Women in Conservation
2. Diversity Outdoors - 10 Individuals & Organizations to Follow
3. Minnesota Conservation Volunteer - Trail Connector
4. Minnesota Regional Parks - Trailblazer Award

RECOGNITION



NEW STEPS

2022 has been a year of much growth and momentum for Huellas Latinas. Always looking to create new opportunities for our community and in the search to optimize the processes, we closed with the update of the web platform to automate the registration processes for the activities. The launch of the Winter Hiking Challenge 2023 that closed with the registration of 40 people interested in doing the challenge. The Huellas Latinas Hiking Club platform with membership, group interactions and learning forums. As well as the virtual store where you can find some of the brand's products.

ACTUALIZACIÓN
DE LA WEB



WINTER HIKING
CHALLENGE



HUELLAS LATINAS
HIKING CLUB



TIENDA VIRTUAL





A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

In 2023 Huellas Latinas will become a Non-Profits. This will allow to expand the opportunities and the possibilities of carrying out more activities throughout the year. We closed the year with the formation of the board of directors and we are now preparing to navigate the transition process.



Al principio, los sueños parecen imposibles, luego improbables y eventualmente inevitables.

- Christopher Reeve